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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)/USSR

DATE DISTR. 26 Feb. 1952

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SUBJECT Proposed Substitution of Hematite from Kerch
for Ore from Krivoi Rog to DDR for Processing
at EKO

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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BY CABLE

DO NOT CIRCULATE

1. Minister Fritz Selbmann of the DDR Ministry for Smelting and Ore Mining has been informed that the USSR is not in a position to deliver 400,000 tons of ore from Krivoi Rog to the DDR in 1952. The USSR can make only partial delivery (quantity unknown) of this ore and offers the rest of the quota from the Kerch district.
2. Selbmann complained to State Secretary Kurt Gregor, to Minister President Otto Grotewohl, to Chairman of the State Planning Commission Heinrich Rau, and to Koslow of the SCC about the USSR intention to deliver hematite from Kerch for use in Eisenhüttenkombinat Ost, Fuerstenburg/O. He states that with a delivery of Kerch ore, EKO can produce only Thomas steel, instead of the planned open-hearth pig iron with low phosphorus content. If the Kerch ore is supplied to EKO by the USSR, the DDR must change its entire plans for EKO Siemens-Martin steel production and must convert EKO to a Thomas type steel plant, since the DDR is not technically prepared to extract the arsenic from Kerch ore.
3. Selbmann suggests that DIA-Bergbau conclude no trade agreement with the USSR, unless the original promise to provide Krivoi Rog ore is kept. He further suggests that, should DIA-Bergbau sign an agreement for its delivery, the Soviet trade representatives be informed that the DDR is unable to smelt Kerch ore.
4. The West Berlin overt Tagesspiegel reported on 19 February 1952 that Selbmann has been appointed to head a four-man commission to step up efficiency of EKO production. In Selbmann's absence, his ministerial functions are to be handled by other officials.

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